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Date: April 30, 2004

Sonia V. McVean
Sonia V. McVean

PATENT
90606.3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Akitoshi NAKAJIMA et al. Serial No.: 10/743,457 Filing Date: December 23, 2003 For: SPLIT TYPE CONNECTING ROD	Art Unit: 2833 Examiner: Unknown
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COMMENTARY RE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, and in recognition of their duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office relevant information known to be material to patentability, Applicants herewith submit a copy of the prior art listed on the attached Information Disclosure Statement (Form PTO-1449), including English abstracts where needed. The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

Applicants respectfully request that the disclosed reference be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 30, 2004

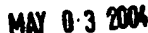
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher A. Bennett", written over a horizontal line.

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Substitute for form 449/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Akitoshi NAKAJIMA

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

90606.3

[illegible][illegible]

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether of not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant unique citation designation number, (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.